

Applicant : Michael Gerard Wallace
Serial No. : 10/699,171
Page No. : 5

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-10 remain in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

I. Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Hinze for the courtesies extended to Applicant's attorney during the telephone interview on March 9, 2006. During the interview, proposed amendments were discussed in view of the applied references. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments define over the applied references. The proposed amendments are formally presented in this Response.

II. Invention Summary

The present invention is directed to a moon dial that can be incremented in both a forward and a backward direction by rotating the hands of the clock forward or backward.

As defined in amended independent claims 1, 5 and 9, a rotatable moon disk includes a plurality of generally symmetric teeth. A drive disk includes a pin extending therefrom. The drive disk is capable of rotating in a first direction and a second direction. The pin engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk can be incremented in a forward direction when said drive disk rotates in said first direction and in a backward direction when said drive disk rotates in said second direction. As

Applicant : Michael Gerard Wallace
Serial No. : 10/699,171
Page No. : 6

further defined in claim 9, a friction device is included on the moon disk axis creating friction between the disk and the moon disk axis.

III. Claim Rejections

A. Section 102 Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 4,881,213 to Zaslowsky

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zaslowsky.

The Zaslowsky patent was discussed in Applicant's Response filed on December 8, 2005, and those comments are incorporated herein by reference. In summary, Zaslowsky discloses a watch with a moon dial and a date indicator dial. The moon dial 36 includes teeth that are driven by a pin 48 that extends from a drive disk 30. The drive disk 30 has a non-circular rotational pattern. As a result of this rotational pattern, the pin 48 can only increment the moon dial 36 in a clockwise direction.

With respect to amended independent claims 1 and 5, Zaslowsky does not disclose a pin that engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk can be incremented forward when the driving gear rotates in a first direction, and backward when the driving gear rotates in a second direction. Unlike the claimed invention, Zaslowsky cannot increment the moon dial in both directions. Instead, the pin can only increment the moon dial in a clockwise direction. In order to set the moon dial of Zaslowsky, a user must move the hands of the watch successively backward and forward to advance the moon dial in the clockwise direction.

Because Zaslowsky fails to disclose all of the elements of amended

Applicant : Michael Gerard Wallace
Serial No. : 10/699,171
Page No. : 7

independent claims 1 and 5, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Zaslawsky under Section 102 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

B. Section 103 Rejection Based on Zaslawsky in View of U.S. Patent
2,336,519 to Wilcox

As previously presented, claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Zaslawsky in view of Wilcox.

Wilcox is cited for disclosing a clock having a friction washer. Applicants submit that Wilcox does not overcome the above noted inadequacies of Zaslawsky with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 5 from which claims 2-4, 6 and 8 depend, or with respect to amended independent claim 9. Neither Zaslawsky nor Wilcox disclose, teach or suggest a pin that engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk increments forward when the driving gear rotates in a first direction, and backward when the driving gear rotates in a second direction.

Because Zaslawsky and Wilcox do not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of the amended claims, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 under Section 103 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

C. Section 103 Rejection Based on Zaslawsky in view of Wilcox and U.S.
Patent 4,548,512 to Erard

As previously presented, claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

Applicant : Michael Gerard Wallace
Serial No. : 10/699,171
Page No. : 8

103 as being unpatentable over Zaslowsky in view of Wilcox and further in view of Erard.

Erard does not overcome the above noted inadequacies of Zaslowsky and Wilcox with respect to amended independent claim 5, from which claims 7 and 8 depend. In particular, Erard does not disclose, teach or suggest a pin that engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk increments forward when the driving gear rotates in a first direction, and backward when the driving gear rotates in a second direction.

Applicants therefore submit that the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under Section 103 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

D. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims further define Applicants' invention and are therefore even more clearly allowable than the claims discussed above. Claim 2 recites that the moon dial has an axis of rotation, and further comprises a friction means for applying rotational friction to the moon dial, the friction means mounted on the axis. Claim 3 recites that the friction means comprises a wave washer engaging the moon dial. Claim 4 recites that the driving gear completes one revolution every twenty-four hours. Claim 6 recites a wave washer that maintains consistent friction with the moon disk, preventing the disk from incrementing when not engaged by the pin. Claim 7 recites that the moon disk increments by one tooth for each revolution of the drive disk. Claim 8 recites that the clock has conventional hands and the disk may be incremented forward or backward by any manual or automatic rotation of the hands. Claim 10 recites that the

Applicant : Michael Gerard Wallace
Serial No. : 10/699,171
Page No. : 9

friction device is a wave washer.


IV. Conclusion

In view of the interview, the above amendments, and these remarks,
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.
A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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